



Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

Bulletin #82 – September 20, 2005

SEMA's Homepage: sema.dps.mo.gov

September is National Preparedness Month in Missouri

On September 21, Missouri Governor Matt Blunt will speak at a National Preparedness Month Rally on the Capitol's south lawn. There will be over 35 exhibits at the rally including numerous emergency response exhibits from HSRTs, CERTs, Medical Reserve Corps, Voluntary Organizations, and State agencies.

Missouri Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration For Katrina Response

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved his request for Emergency Disaster Assistance to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) staff will be working with local jurisdictions to identify and determine eligible reimbursable costs associated with this relief effort.

PSA for Missouri Donations Hotline – (800) 841-8891

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt appeared in a Public Service Announcement (PSA) promoting the Missouri Donations Hotline – **800-841-8891**. Southwestern Bell Communications donated the telephone line. The PSAs will run on radio and television stations for six weeks beginning Sept 17. The Missouri Donations Hotline has been established for anyone wishing to volunteer or donate to the Hurricane Katrina victims. Trained AmeriCorps volunteers will help callers between the hours of 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.

Over 10,618 Katrina Victims In Missouri

On Saturday September 17, the Red Cross was working with 10,618 Hurricane Katrina victims staying with family, friends or faith-based organizations in Missouri.

"We encourage every Katrina victim to register with the local chapter of the American Red Cross," said SEMA Director Ron Reynolds. Registering does several things – victims will receive vouchers for emergency food, medicine, clothing and housing. The Red Cross will also help victims get into the FEMA disaster registration system either via the 800 number or the FEMA website.

Additionally this helps Missouri voluntary and faith based disaster response organizations help administer services in the local communities. SEMA will use the information to help reimburse governments for the emergency related costs associated with their Hurricane Katrina activities.

State Employees Working with ARC Disaster Response

State employees may take up to two weeks administrative leave if they are volunteering with the American Red Cross for disaster assistance. The following state employees have taken advantage of this program to work with the Hurricane Katrina Efforts: Steven Stacey of Jefferson City was the Shelter Manager at the Astrodome, Houston, TX; Brian Stanton of Jefferson City at Falls Church, VA; Jerry Gamblin of Jefferson City returned from Disaster Relief Operation; Gregory Borskey of St Joseph in Baton Rouge, LA; Steven Stacy of Cape Girardeau at Baton Rouge, LA; David Fleming of Cape

Girardeau returned from Disaster Operation; and Janet Douglas of Springfield operated the Springfield DRC.

Hurricane Katrina Response

SEMA's website: www.sema.dps.mo.gov lists contact information for citizens wishing to volunteer for the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

IRS Says Katrina Victims Will Have Until Jan. 3 to File and Pay Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service says Victims of Hurricane Katrina will have until Jan. 3, 2006 to file any returns, pay any taxes or make any deposits due. This extends and expands relief granted previously by the IRS and is available in all the counties and parishes listed in IRS news release IR-2005-91. It applies to any return, tax payment or tax deposit with an original or extended due date that fell on or after Aug. 29, 2005.

The IRS will abate interest and any late filing, late payment or failure to deposit penalties that would otherwise apply. This relief includes the Sept. 15 due date for estimated taxes and for calendar-year corporate returns with automatic extensions; the Oct. 17 deadline for individuals who received a second extension for filing their individual income tax returns; and the Oct. 31 deadline for filing quarterly federal employment and excise tax returns.

More information regarding disaster relief, including IR-2005-91, is available on the IRS Web site, IRS.gov. People with questions can also call the IRS toll-free disaster hotline at 1-866-562-5227.

LA, and MS State Insurance Contacts Info for Katrina Victims

Home and business owners displaced by Hurricane Katrina should contact their insurance agent or company immediately to file a claim. If owners have questions regarding their insurance policies or how to file claims, they may contact their state's department of insurance by phone or by using the Web.

The following information was provided by the Missouri Department of Insurance:

- Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1-800-259-5300 or www.ldi.la.gov
- Mississippi Department of Insurance, 1-800-856-1982 or www.doi.state.ms.us

FBI Grants Access to Criminal Databases For Relief Workers, Volunteers, and Evacuees Associated With Hurricane Katrina

Due to Hurricane Katrina, the FBI has received numerous requests by states wanting to conduct name and fingerprint-based background checks on Hurricane Katrina relief workers, volunteers, and evacuees with access to children. To assist states during this time, the FBI has obtained the authority to provide states access to the FBI's criminal history database for the purpose of conducting background checks on any volunteer, relief worker, or evacuee associated with Hurricane Katrina, who would have access to children. The FBI is waiving its \$24.00 fee that is normally charged for fingerprint-based checks relating to employment, licensing, and suitability. This limited authority, which expires on November 7, 2005, requires a state or federal statute authorizing a fingerprint-based criminal history background check for individuals with access to children. Missouri is one of the 33 states the FBI has granted this temporary authority.

U.S. Department of Labor Helps with Employee Identification Needs

The U.S Department of Labor will help workers and employers replace and obtain personal identification records necessary for employment. The department's Employment and Training Administration is

working directly with federal, state and local offices of the nation's workforce investment system by providing Web services and toll-free telephone assistance.

Individuals who are jobless by Katrina may be hired without having to immediately furnish personal identification documents, such as a passport or a U.S. military card. On September 6, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it would not sanction employers for hiring individuals who cannot provide original identification documentation needed to take a job. Because people have been evacuated from their homes and due to ongoing displacement as well as the loss of documents, DHS will refrain from sanctions and enforcement for 45 days for civil violations.

Employers will still need to have I-9 forms completed to the greatest extent possible, but should make Hurricane Katrina notations where documents cannot be provided upon employment. Employers hiring Katrina-affected persons may present a receipt for the applications to replace documents within three days and the actual documents within 90 days.

FBI Announces Tip Line To Report Corruption & Fraud

The FBI launched a tip line, **1-800-CALL FBI or 1-800-225-5324**, to collect information and complaints of public corruption and government fraud, in connection with the Hurricane Katrina aftermath. Information related to these matters can be provided toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. FBI personnel will man the lines and the information collected will be analyzed, investigated, and shared with our state, local, and federal law enforcement personnel.

Other Hurricane Katrina fraud hotline numbers including scams such as spamming unsolicited donation requests or spoofing legitimate charity websites should continue to be relayed to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) or www.ic3.gov, while identity theft complaints should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at www.ftc.gov or to the FTC's toll-free ID theft hotline, 1-877-ID-THEFT.

Area Coordinator Meetings...

Area A:	September 22, 2005	10 a.m.	911 Center, Carrollton
Area D:	October 13, 2005	10 a.m.	Smith's Restaurant, Bolivar
Area F:	September 28, 2005	10:30 a.m.	Armory Sports Complex, Columbia

SEMA Training Schedule Posted to Homepage

The new training schedule is on SEMA's homepage. The link is: <http://training.dps.mo.gov/>. Once you go to this website you can click on the link to view the classes and enroll on line. Remember to check the class schedule often, as classes are frequently added. All SEMA classes are free.

37 Fire Departments Receive \$3.9 Million in Rounds 2-5 Firefighter Grants

Here are the Missouri Fire Departments receiving Firefighter Assistance grants from Rounds 2-5.

Departments receiving grants for Operations and Safety are Winfield-Foley FPD (\$147,868), Lincoln County Ambulance in Troy (\$31,944), Central Jackson County FPD in Blue Springs (\$129,607), Lamar FD (\$95,840), Osage Beach FPD (\$21,822), Raytown FPD (\$18,000), Republic FD (\$60,676), Poplar Bluff FD (\$76,708), Caruthersville FD (\$70,708), Nixa FPD (\$82,892), Webb City FD (\$52,067), and Wheaton FD (\$109,250), Jefferson R-7 FPD (\$92,953), Helena Lion FD (\$35,297), Washburn FD (\$60,195), Berkeley FD (\$66,838), University City FD (\$78,914), Odessa EMS (\$48,450), Excelsior Springs FD (\$114,000), Scott City FD (\$70,267), Curryville VFD (\$49,029); Des Peres DPS (\$45,401); Cedar Hill FPD (\$42m157); Lake Ozark FPD (\$227,858); Eureka FPD (\$241,790); Shrewsbury FD (\$57,000).

Departments receiving grants to purchase vehicles are Iconium FPD in Osceola (\$193,791), Galt FPD (\$90,250), Hurley FPD (\$175,845), Carterville FD (\$209,000), North Stone NE Barry Co FPD in Crane (\$197,600), Senath FD (\$142,500), Jonesburg-High Hill FPD (\$156,750), Purdy FD (\$180,500), West Plains Fire & Rescue (\$261,125), Howell County RFD (\$269,800), Timber Knob VFD (\$66,738).

Latest on Hazard Mitigation Plans

Status	County Plans	Number of Counties Covered
Approved	31	41
Conditionally Approved	17	17
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Total	48	58

New Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) changes: 1. FEMA decided public schools must have a mitigation plan! 2. FEMA decided that public colleges and universities must have a mitigation plan! Future PDMC planning grants will be made on a competitive basis. This current round of grants may be the last funding assistance we can offer for local Mitigation Plans, until the updates are due or until we have another Presidential Disaster Declaration.

A Guide To Developing Severe Weather Emergency Plans For Schools

Many Emergency Management Directors work with schools to develop emergency plans and drills. The National Weather Service (NWS) developed free planning guide: "A Guide To Developing Severe Weather Emergency Plans For Schools." Here is the link to the website: <http://origin.www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/swep/index.htm>

Mental Health Revises Disaster Plan

The Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) has recently revised its plan for community mental health services after a disaster event. This plan is an important adjunct to the State Emergency Operations Plan, Annex K, Health and Medical and provides a template for DMH rapid response in an event. The revision uses federal all-hazards planning guidance prepared by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in cooperation with FEMA. The revised plan has been posted at <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/disaster.htm> on the DMH website along with other relevant information related to disasters and mental health needs.

Clements Heads MDHSS Center for Emergency Response & Terrorism

Bruce W. Clements is the new Director for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism (CERT). Clement was the Associate Director for the St. Louis University Institute for BioSecurity prior to joining state government. He plans to enhance and expand relationships with public health and emergency management organizations to better protect Missouri's citizens.

READERS: Are there items you would like to see addressed or information you would like to share in future Bulletins? Please submit ideas/information to susie.stonner@sema.dps.mo.gov